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UNIT DIRECTOR TO PAKISTAN
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124906
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King, ? (charge)

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 83ISLAMA015108

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7452
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
/MEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
/MCONSUL KARACHI
/MCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 15108

STATE FOR RP/NSE AND NEA/PAB;
AID FOR AID/FVA/FFP AND ASIA/PNS;
ROME FOR FODAG

P.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SREF WFP PK AF
SUBJ: VISIT OF WFP EMERGENCY UNIT DIRECTOR TO PAKISTAN

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 13322; (B) ROME 17083; (C) STATE
124906

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. TREVOR PAGE, DIRECTOR OF THE WFP'S
EMERGENCY UNIT, WAS IN PAKISTAN JULY 30 TO AUGUST 13 .
DURING HIS VISIT HE MET WITH OFFICIALS FROM DONOR
COUNTRIES (INCLUDING U.S. CHARGE, REFUGEE COUNSELOR AND
FFP OFFICER), WFP AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
AND GOP. IN DETAILED CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM EARLY IN
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HIS VISIT REFCOUNS AND FFP OFFICER OFFERED MISSION'S
FULLEST COLLABORATION. PAGE VISITED PESHAWAR, QUETTA
AND KARACHI, AND A NUMBER OF CAMPS IN BOTH THE NWFP AND
BALUCHISTAN. PARAGRAPHS BELOW CONTAIN SOME OF HIS
OBSERVATIONS ON WFP PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF
HERE. PAGE TOLD REFCOUNS THAT HE WAS OF THE OPINION
THAT A SERIES OF WFP/GOP DISCUSSIONS ON PROBLEM AREAS
IN TRANSPORTATION, RATHER THAN A DETAILED STUDY OF WFP
TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, SHOULD ENABLE DONORS TO MAKE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/WR
REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE *4/24/86*
FOR EXCPT. DATE
TS AUTH. ☐
EMERGENCY RELIEF ☐
PACIFIC ISLANDS ☐
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT ☐
LAT. AM. AFFAIRS ☐
E. ASIAN AFFAIRS ☐
S. ASIAN AFFAIRS ☐
PA OF POL. AFFAIRS ☐
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KNOWLEDGABLE RESPONSES TO FUTURE GOP REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEFRAYING INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF REFUGEE RELIEF SUPPLIES. HE SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY SO RECOMMEND TO WFP HEADQUARTERS IN ROME. DEPT MAY WISH TO ASK ROME TO FOLLOW UP.
END SUMMARY

3. ITINERARY. TREVOR PAGE ARRIVED IN ISLAMABAD JULY 30 FOR WHAT HE TERMED AN ORIENTATION VISIT FOCUSING ON A BROAD RANGE OF FOOD AND REFUGEE ISSUES. AFTER A COUPLE OF DAYS HERE HE WENT TO THE NWFP FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP AND WFP OFFICIALS AND VISITS TO SEVERAL REFUGEE CAMPS. FROM THE NWFP PAGE WENT TO KARACHI TO MEET PORT OFFICIALS AND OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL LOGISTIC CELL, THE ARMY ORGANIZATION THAT HANDLES TRANSPORTATION OF WFP FOOD COMMODITIES FROM KARACHI PORT TO THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE NWFP, BALUCHISTAN AND THE PUNJAB. HIS VISIT TO THE QUETTA AREA (BALUCHISTAN) FOLLOWED, WITH CALLS ON GOP OFFICIALS AND TRAVELS WITH THE WFP SUB-OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE IN BALUCHISTAN TO REFUGEE CAMPS INCLUDING THE LARGE SORKHAB CAMP NEAR PISHIN. HE RETURNED TO ISLAMABAD FOR 2-3 DAYS AT THE END OF HIS TRAVELS AND DEPARTED PAKISTAN ON AUGUST 13. EARLY IN VISIT, REFUGEE COUNSELOR AND FFPO OFFERED MISSION'S FULLEST COLLABORATION.
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TION. ACCOMPANIED BY WFP/PAKISTAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR CLARET, PAGE CALLED ON CHARGE KING ON AUGUST 11.

4. HOW MANY REFUGEES? THE SUBJECT OF THE NUMBER OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN CAME UP FREQUENTLY IN PAGE'S DISCUSSIONS

SAID HE HAD OBSERVED THAT INFLATION OF REFUGEE FIGURES STARTS WITH THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES LISTED IN INDIVIDUAL CAMPS. A RULE OF THUMB IS THAT THERE ARE 6 PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD, AND SOME OF THE CAMPS SIMPLY COULD NOT HOLD THE NUMBER OF REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS THEY ARE PURPORTED TO. PAGE SAID IT WAS NOTEWORTHY THAT HOWEVER IMPRECISE REFUGEE POPULATION FIGURES ARE, THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY MINIMAL LAW AND ORDER PROBLEMS INVOLVING REFUGEES, AND THERE ARE NO POCKETS OF STARVATION AMONG THE REFUGEES.

THE 2.2 MILLION FIGURE IS BASED ON "ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION" AND THE QUOTE AVERAGE ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY UNQUOTE OF THE REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN. PAGE AND CLARET

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Blas

Blas

WERE QUICK TO EMPHASIZE THAT WFP HAS NO WAY OF PROVING
ITS FIGURES. *r*

Blas

COMMENT: WE HAVE TENDED TO TREAT THE 2.2 MILLION *y*

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R 020410Z SEP 83

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 15108

STATE FOR RP/NSE AND NEA/PAB;

AID FOR AID/FVA/FFP AND ASIA/PNS;

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

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FIGURE AS A QUOTE REASONABLE ESTIMATE UNQUOTE OF THE
NUMBER OF AFGHAN REFUGEES ACTUALLY IN PAKISTAN

END COMMENT.

5. WFP IN BALUCHISTAN.

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THE WFP IS
URGING THE GOP TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS AT REENUMERATION.

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AND PAGE NOTED THAT THERE HAS IN FACT BEEN A SLIGHT REDUCTION IN THE GOP COUNT OF REFUGEES IN BALUCHISTAN IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. EVEN A SMALL REDUCTION IN NUMBERS RAISES THE IRE OF THE REFUGEES AND GOP OFFICIALS IN BALUCHISTAN. CONSIDER IT REMARKABLE THAT THERE HAVEN'T BEEN SECURITY INCIDENTS ARISING FROM THIS REDUCTION. PAGE URGED THE REFUGEE COUNSELOR AND FFPO TO KEEP PUSHING THE GOP TO COME UP WITH MORE ACCURATE FIGURES, AND REFCOUNS NOTED THAT THE QUESTION OF FIGURES COMES UP IN VIRTUALLY EVERY CONVERSATION HE HAS WITH GOP OFFICIALS CONCERNING REFUGEES.

6. POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF FOOD INTO AFGHANISTAN. IN HIS CALL ON THE CHARGE PAGE SAID THAT IN BALUCHISTAN HE HAD HEARD STORIES OF QUOTE LARGE QUANTITIES UNQUOTE OF FOOD GOING INTO AFGHANISTAN, MOST OF IT ACROSS THE DURAND LINE NORTH OF CHAMAN. HE ASKED HOW THE UNITED STATES AS THE MAJOR DONOR VIEWS POSSIBLE MOVEMENT OF FOOD SUPPLIES INTO AFGHANISTAN. THE CHARGE ASKED FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE EXTENT OF CLAIMED DIVERSION, AND PAGE AND CLARET HAD NO PRECISE FIGURES. END COMMENT.

7. WFP FOLLOWS LEAD OF DONORS. IN HIS CALL ON THE CHARGE PAGE SAID EMPHATICALLY THAT WFP TAKES THE LEAD FROM DONOR GOVERNMENTS, AND IF THE DONORS AND THE GOP

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AREN'T WORRIED ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION MECHANISM, INCLUDING POSSIBLE DIVERSION, THE WFP WILL NOT MODIFY ITS OWN PROGRAM. PAGE STATED THAT WITHIN ITS LIMITATIONS WFP WOULD BRING PROBLEMS TO OUR ATTENTION AS THEY ARISE AND WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO RESOLVE THEM. THE CHARGE NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE A REAL PROBLEM WITH CORRUPTION AT A HIGH LEVEL AND IN GREAT QUANTITIES, AND SAID IT IS GOOD TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS AS THEY ARISE.

8. DSM IN LOCAL MARKET. PAGE OBSERVED THAT IF THE WFP COMMODITIES AND SUPPLIES EXCEED ACTUAL NEED, THE DIFFERENCE WILL APPEAR IN THE LOCAL MARKET. THIS IS THE CASE WITH DSM, WHICH IS NOT POPULAR WITH THE REFUGEES

Bla5

9. REDUCTION OF RATIONS. PAGE OBSERVED HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO REDUCE RATIONS, AND SAID WFP/RONE IS STILL GRAPPLING WITH THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO REDUCE THE

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CHILDREN'S RATION. AT PRESENT FULL RATIONS ARE PROVIDED
FOR ALL 2.2 MILLION RATION RECIPIENTS.

10. TRANSPORTATION STUDY. PAGE WAS WELL AWARE OF USG
INTEREST IN A STUDY OF TRANSPORTATION ISSUES. HE
DISCUSSED TRANSPORT IN HIS VISITS TO PESHAWAR, QUETTA

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AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 15108

STATE FOR RP/NSE AND NEA/PAB;
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AND KARACHI, AT THE LATTER WITH NATIONAL LOGISTIC CELL OFFICERS. HE ALSO DISCUSSED TRANSPORTATION ISSUES AT THE CLOSE OF HIS VISIT WITH SAFRON IN ISLAMABAD. PAGE OBSERVED THAT IT PROBABLY COSTS 20-30 PERCENT MORE TO USE NLC TRUCKS THAN TO USE PRIVATE CONTRACTORS, AS THE NLC RECEIVES AN OVERHEAD IN ADDITION TO ACTUAL COSTS. HOWEVER, PAGE CONCLUDED THAT THE HANDLING OF REFUGEE RELIEF SUPPLIES BY NLC HAS CUT DOWN SO MUCH ON LOSS OF SUPPLIES BEFORE THEY ARRIVE AT THE CAMPS, THAT THE NET SAVING TO THE GOP HAS EXCEEDED ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS. IN ADDITION, THE NLC HAS REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF TIME IT
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TAKES TO GET THINGS OUT OF KARACHI PORT. ON THE BASIS OF HIS OBSERVATIONS, PAGE TOLD REFCOUNS THAT HE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT A SERIES OF WFP/GOP DISCUSSIONS ON PROBLEM AREAS IN TRANSPORTATION, RATHER THAN A DETAILED STUDY OF WFP TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, SHOULD GIVE DONORS THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO MAKE KNOWLEDGABLE RESPONSES TO FUTURE GOP REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEFRAYING THE INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF REFUGEE RELIEF SUPPLIES. HE SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY SO

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RECOMMEND TO WFP HEADQUARTERS IN ROME.

11. COMMENT ON VISIT. BY THE TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE
PAGE HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO VIRTUALLY ALL MAJOR FACETS OF
THE WFP PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF IN PAKISTAN.

Bias-

PENDING CONCRETE INITIATIVES BY WFP WITH
RESPECT TO TRANSPORTATION, EMBASSY REFUGEE OFFICE WILL
FOCUS ATTENTION ON CLARIFYING LOGISTICS ISSUES. END
COMMENT.

12. ACTION REQUESTED. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ASK ROME
TO FOLLOW UP WITH PAGE AT WFP/ROME. IT WOULD BE
USEFUL TO KNOW WHAT SPECIFIC FOLLOW-UP PAGE HAS
RECOMMENDED IN HIS FINAL TRIP REPORT.

13. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. KING

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